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**Commission for Social Development acting as
the Preparatory Committee for the Second
World Assembly on Ageing****First session**

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Accreditation and participation of non-governmental
organizations in the Second World Assembly on
Ageing and its preparatory process**

**Accreditation and participation of non-governmental
organizations****Note by the Secretariat**

1. The present note was prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with past practice in respect of preparatory committees for major conferences, and is submitted to the Commission for Social Development acting as preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing for its consideration with a view to establishing modalities for the accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations in the World Assembly and its preparatory process.

2. Recalling resolution 54/262, by which the General Assembly invited, inter alia, non-governmental organizations in the field of ageing, to participate in and contribute to the World Assembly and its preparatory process, including organizing meetings and studies related to the themes of the World Assembly, the preparatory committee may wish to consider that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that express the wish to attend the World Assembly and the meetings of

its preparatory committee be accredited for participation;

3. In addition, the preparatory committee may wish to consider that other non-governmental organizations wishing to be accredited could apply to the secretariat of the World Assembly for this purpose in accordance with the following requirements:

(a) The secretariat of the World Assembly would be responsible for the receipt and preliminary evaluation, in accordance with the provisions given below, of requests from non-governmental organizations for accreditation to the World Assembly and its preparatory process;

(b) All such applications would have to be accompanied by information on the competence of the organization and its relevance to the work of the preparatory committee, indicating the particular areas of the World Assembly preparations to which such competence and relevance pertain, and would have to include the following:

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- (i) Purpose of the organization;
 - (ii) Information on its programmes and activities in areas relevant to the World Assembly and its preparatory process and the country or countries in which those programmes and activities are carried out;
 - (iii) Confirmation of its activities at the national or international levels;
 - (iv) Copies of its annual reports, with financial statements, and a list of members of the governing body and their country of nationality;
 - (v) A description of its membership, indicating the total number of members and their geographical distribution;
- (c) In the evaluation of the relevance of non-governmental organizations applying for accreditation to the World Assembly and its preparatory process, it would be agreed that the background of those organizations and their involvement in social development issues would determine such relevance;
- (d) Non-governmental organizations seeking accreditation would be asked to confirm their interests in the goals and objectives of the World Assembly;
- (e) In cases where the secretariat of the World Assembly believed, on the basis of the information provided in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria, that an organization had established its competence and relevance to the work of the preparatory committee, it would recommend to the preparatory committee that the organization be accredited. In cases where the secretariat did not recommend the granting of accreditation, it would make available to the preparatory committee its reasons for so doing. The secretariat of the World Assembly would ensure that its recommendations are available to members of the preparatory committee at least one week prior to the start of each session;
- (f) The preparatory committee would decide on all proposals for accreditation within 24 hours of the secretariat's recommendations. The preparatory committee would take such recommendations in plenary meetings. Should a decision not be taken within that period, interim accreditation would be accorded until such time as a decision were taken;
- (g) A non-governmental organization that is granted accreditation to attend one session of the

preparatory committee would be able to attend all future sessions as well as the World Assembly itself;

(h) In recognition of the intergovernmental nature of the World Assembly, non-governmental organizations would have no negotiating role in the work of the World Assembly and its preparatory process;

(i) Non-governmental organizations accredited to the World Assembly would be given, in accordance with United Nations practice and at the discretion of the Chairperson and with the consent of the preparatory committee, the opportunity to briefly address the preparatory committee in plenary meetings and meetings of subsidiary bodies. If the number of requests is too large, non-governmental organizations would be requested to form themselves into constituencies, with each constituency speaking through one spokesperson;

(j) Non-governmental organizations accredited to the World Assembly may, at their own expense, make written presentations in the official languages of the United Nations during the preparatory process, as they deem appropriate. Those written presentations would not be issued as official documents unless they are in accordance with United Nations rules and procedures.